

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01868 071728 Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

----- 126447

P 070756 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3838

S E C R E T JIDDA 1868

STADIS

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI REQUEST FOR F-4' S

REF: JIDDA 1791, 1846

1. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE BY MAY 13 POSITIVE RESPONSE ON SALE OF F-4' S TO SAUDI ARABIA AS PRINCE SULTAN DESIRES, THOUGH THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A COMMITMENT TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE WOULD DO A GREAT DEAL TO REASSURE KING FAISAL AT MOMENT WHEN HE CLAIMS TO BE UNDER HEAVY AND MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARABS REGARDING SAUDI ARABIA' S CLOSE TIES WITH US. (SEE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WHICH GIVES SUBSTANCE OF KING' S " WARNING" TO ARAMCO.)

2. HOWEVER, SHOULD IT SEEM UNLIKELY NECESSARY CLEARANCES CAN BE OBTAINED BEFORE SULTAN' S DEPARTURE FOR FRANCE WITH KING, WE URGE SOME REASSURING INTERIM GESTURE MAKING PLAIN SINCERITY OF OUR DETERMINATION ASSIST SAUDIS MEET THEIR ONGOING MILITARY AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS.

3. PERHAPS THIS COULD BE DONE BY MEANS OF URGENT PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ACTING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO PRINCE SULTAN FOR DELIVERY BY MAY 13 INFORMING HIM OF OUR INTENTION EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL. WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 01868 071728 Z

ALSO IF LETTER COULD STATE SPECIFICALLY THAT WHILE WE
CANNOT AT MOMENT SAY PRECISELY WHICH AIRCRAFT WE THINK
SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD PURCHASE, WE WILL MAKE AVILABLE
ADVANCED PLANE OF TYPE BEST SUITED MEET SPECIAL REQUIRE-
MENTS OF SAUDI ARABIA STEMMING FROM LONG DISTANCES, HIGH
TEMPERATURES, OTHER SPECIAL OPERATING CONDITIONS. WE
MIGHT SAY ALSO WE PREPARED EXAMINE WITH SAUDIS WHAT STEPS
RSAF MUST UNDERTAKE AT EARLY STAGE IN ORDER HAVE TECHNICAL
CAPABILITIES FOR PROMPT, EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF NEW
PLANES ONCE THEY ARE DELIVERED.
THACHER

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS, EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA01868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730536/aaaahxnb.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 73 JIDDA 1791, 1846
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971211
Subject: SAUDI REQUEST FOR F-4' S
TAGS: MARR, SA
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005